

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-03

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-03 OPIC-12

XMB-07 DRC-01 /212 W
----- 120083

R 070730Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6435

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 1234

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ETRN, DM, NG

SUBJ: OCDN ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR PARAKOU-NIAMEY RAIL LINK

1. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN AUG 5 DAHO-EXPRESS, OCDN CHIEF DO REGO SAID PLANS NOW FINALLY MOVING AHEAD TO EXTEND NORTH-SOUTH RAIL LINK TO NIAMEY. DO REGO ADMITTED THAT IN THE PAST OBJECTIONS BY TRUCKERS HAD BEEN ABLE TO FRUSTRATE PLANS FOR EXTENSION, BUT THAT NOW "THERE IS NO MORE FORMAL OPPOSITION" FROM TRUCKERS SINCE OCDN HAS CONVINCED THEM THAT RAIL TRANSPORT CAN BE EVEN MORE PROFITABLE THAN THE PRESENT SYSTEM. DO REGO WENT ON TO SAY THAT SAHEL DROUGHT PLAYED KEY ROLE IN REVIVING INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT. ALTHOUGH UNCLEAR ON EXACT MEANS OF FINANCING, DO REGO SAID LOANS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FROM "ORGANIZATIONS UNDERSTANDING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTER OF THIS PROJECT." HE ALSO FAILED TO SPECIFY

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WHEN CONSTRUCTION WOULD BEGIN.

2. COMMENT: THIS STATEMENT, IF CARRIED OUT, WOULD FLY DIRECTLY IN THE FACE OF CONDITIONS LAID DOWN FOR THE IBRD LOAN FOR RESURFACING PARAKOU-MALANVILLE ROAD. THE IBRD LOAN WAS GRANTED ON CONDITION THAT NO MOVE WOULD BE MADE TO EXTEND RAILWAY. NATURALLY, FACT THAT DO REGO TALKS OF RAILWAY DOES NOT MAKE IT FACT. HE AS GOOD AS ADMITTED NONAVAILABILITY OF WESTERN SOURCES OF FINANCE. ONLY OTHER CONCEIVABLE SOURCE WOULD BE FROM EAST. DOUBT RUSSIANS HAVE SUFFICIENT INTEREST MAKE NECESSARY LARGE OUTLAY IN COUNTRY OF MARGINAL INTEREST TO THEM. CHINESE HAVE PROMISED SIZABLE "INTEREST FREE LOAN" WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN COMMITTED TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS. SEEMS UNLIKELY THEY WOULD TAKE ON RAILWAY, BUT, GIVEN TANZA PRECEDENT, POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE EXCLUDED.
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Message Attributes

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